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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

on

COVERT OPERATIONS

NSC & JCS Review Completed

1. The National Security Council, taking cognizance of the vicious covert activities of the USSR, its satellite countries and Communist groups to discredit and defeat the aims and activities of the United States and other Western powers, has determined that, in the interests of world peace and US national security, the overt foreign activities of the US Government must be supplemented by covert operations.

2. Such covert operations will be designed in general order of emphasis to:

a. Place the maximum strain on the Soviet structure of power, including the relationships between the USSR, its satellites, and Communist China; and when and where appropriate in the light of U. S. and Soviet capabilities and the risk of war, contribute to the retraction and reduction of Soviet power and influence to limits which no longer constitute a threat to U. S. security.

b. Strengthen the orientation toward the United States of the peoples and nations of the free world and increase their capacity and will to resist Soviet domination.

c. Develop underground resistance and facilitate covert and guerrilla operations in strategic areas to the maximum practicable extent consistent with 2a above, and ensure availability of these forces in the event of war for utilization in accordance with principles established by the National Security Council, including wherever practicable provision of a base upon which the military may expand these forces on a military basis in time of war within active theaters of operations.

3. Under the authority of Section 102(d)(5) of the National Security Act of 1947, the National Security Council hereby directs that:

a. The Central Intelligence Agency shall continue to plan and conduct covert operations.

b. The Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for:

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(1) Ensuring that covert operations are planned and conducted in a manner consistent with United States foreign and military policies and with overt activities, obtaining guidance in this respect through the mechanism of the Operations Coordinating Board, established by Executive Order 10483, on major programs and through direct liaison with the appropriate departments or agencies on specific projects.

(2) Ensuring that plans for wartime covert operations are drawn up with the assistance of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and are accepted by the latter as being consistent with and complementary to approved plans for wartime military operations.

(3) Informing, through appropriate channels, agencies of the US Government, both at home and abroad (including diplomatic and military representatives in each area), of such operations as will affect them.

c. Planning of covert operations pertaining to economic warfare will be coordinated with the departments and agencies responsible for the planning of economic warfare. The Central Intelligence Agency will conduct all such covert operations.

4. The Director of Central Intelligence, in coordination with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Departments of State and Defense, shall develop appropriate concepts of the planning and conduct of covert operations in wartime on a continuing and flexible basis to meet changing conditions.

5. As used in this directive, "covert operations" are understood to be all activities (except as noted herein) which are conducted or sponsored by this Government against hostile foreign states or groups or in support of friendly foreign states or groups but which are so planned and executed that any US Government responsibility for them is not evident to unauthorized persons and that if uncovered the US Government can plausibly disclaim any responsibility for them. Specifically, such operations shall include any covert activities related to: propaganda; economic warfare; preventive direct action, including sabotage, anti-sabotage, demolition and evacuation measures; subversion against hostile states, including assistance to underground resistance movements, guerrillas and refugee liberation groups, support of indigenous and anti-communist elements in threatened countries of the free world, and nonmilitary deception plans and operations. Such operations shall not include armed conflict by recognized military forces, espionage, counterespionage, and cover and deception for military operations. The Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for referring to the National Security Council operations initially covert which through

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changing circumstances no longer comply with the above definitions and responsibility for which should, therefore, be transferred to other agencies.

6. This directive supersedes the directives contained in NSC 10/2 and NSC 10/5, which are hereby canceled.